



THE VOICE

Vol 28 Issue 39 2020-10-02

Minds We Meet

Interviewing Students Like You!

Virtual Convocation 2020

Learning's All in Our Head

Gender Inequality in Stem

Ada Lovelace Day

Plus:

*Should you Learn a Foreign Language
Latinx Heritage Month
and much more!*



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



We love to hear from you!
Send your questions and comments to voicemagazine.org,
and please indicate if we may publish your letter!

Hey! Did you know the Voice Magazine has a [Facebook page](#)?

No kidding! We also do the [twitter](#) thing once in a while if you're into that.

Editorial

The Re-Imagining of Convocation!

Karl Low



For those of you who are taking in the events of the re-imagined, virtual convocation, my congratulations to you! For me, the day started off a bit frustrating as I came to realize there was no way for random spectators, such as myself, to attend the event and watch what was happening.

During past convocations, I typically put the stream up top and leave it running while I work on various aspects of *The Voice Magazine*. The idea that you might have to register to see the virtual convocation, even as just a spectator, had never occurred to me. Sure, the FAQ for convocation reads: **Do I need to register to attend virtual convocation?**

Yes. You will need to indicate whether you will participate in the virtual ceremony or not. Graduands will receive a convocation email invite by the end of June 2020. Deadline to register to participate is August 31, 2020.

But, to me, that sounded like a note specifically to graduands as the rest of the page was also devoted to them, and again, I wasn't looking to participate so much as to observe the proceedings as they happened. So, I read that a few weeks ago and didn't think anything further of it, assuming there'd be the standard link to view what was going on once the day arrived.

It took emailing the convocation office in my frustration to be set straight, and they graciously provided me with a link to the service that they are using to run Convocation 2020, even though I didn't pre-register. Having now poked through it a little bit, my idea that "re-imagined" was just marketing-speak for what was going to be little more than a streamed performance of what usually happened was way off. This convocation truly is a re-imagined event, feeling more like a large conference than a show, the site contains multiple links, even laid out as different areas within the event. It includes an art hall, recordings of the various graduation ceremonies, multiple invitations to join in various side rooms for networking opportunities with other students and staff, and even a large virtual "booth" for an Amazon Web Services hiring office, as well as other sponsors and supporters (spot the AUSU booth) as you can see by the picture there. And that's not even going into some of the live events that are being presented.



My annoyance at not being able to find the link to view the ceremonies live has been replaced by a grudging understanding. This isn't just a show on a stage anymore. A single stream of the events, while it never captured the entirety of Convocation before, would absolutely fail to capture what was really important here, and what, once you're in the site, can be seen in so many places—the graduands and graduates. Whether it's through the pictures in the gallery, the live interactive networking sessions, the various speeches and faculties all talking about and praising the graduates, all of it can be seen as celebrating those who've completed their journey through AU. So congratulations first, to AU, who've found a way to really celebrate the graduates beyond a bunch of talking heads giving speeches when graduands themselves are unable to be present.

And of course, congratulations especially to all the graduates from 2019-2020. Next year, I'll be registering early so as to not miss any of it. Enjoy the read!

MINDS

WE

MEET



Who are your fellow students? It can feel like you're all alone in your studies, but across the nation, around the globe, students like you are also pursuing their AU education, and *The Voice Magazine* wants to bring their stories to you and vice versa. If you would like to be featured next, do not hesitate to get in touch!

Lethbridge, Alberta's Tianna Vonkeman recently enrolled in AU and is in the 3rd year of her degree in the Bachelor of Professional Arts in Criminal Justice.

Tianna completed her diploma from Lethbridge College before enrolling at AU with the goal of being "accepted to law school, specifically University of Victoria's JD/JID Program."

"I was debating between Lethbridge College, Athabasca, and Royal Roads for my degree. When I spoke to an adviser at University of Victoria they helped me narrow it down to Athabasca or Royal Roads and I decided Athabasca gave me more freedom as I wouldn't have to travel to the campus for any classes."

Tianna has started her first two courses at AU and has been enjoying CRJS 492: Criminal Organizations. She added, "I

do find the lack of structure from AU intimidating, and with coronavirus I have had a hard time carving out time for my studies. I took online schooling before AU, but I had a study spot that is now closed to the public and it's been challenging to find a way around those obstacles."

Tianna grew up in Lethbridge before moving just outside of London, England, in her 20s. After meeting her now husband, she stated, "I lived with him there for a couple years and, after we were married, we decided to move to Canada. He went back to school the first couple years after we moved back and got a diploma in Information Technology. Shortly after, I started a job in corrections and finished my courses with Lethbridge College. We have recently added a new family member, he's a 10-week-old Siberian Husky named Tikaani, and all of our free time has been training and playing with him."

Tianna doesn't have much time for hobbies because of her hectic work schedule, stating, "I come home everyday excited to play with our puppy and spend time with my husband." However, she recently had the time to finish *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah, mentioning, "It was an amazing book that kept me on the edge of my seat. I ... finished it (in 2 days!) because it was so hard to put it down." As for television shows, she mentioned, "Most of what we watch at the moment is puppy training videos which have been very helpful and informative. We normally watch UK shows, our favorite one right now is called Taskmaster which is a game/comedy show."

Tianna's bucket list is unique, revealing, "The number one thing on my bucket list would be swimming with humpback whales in Tonga. Tonga is one of the places where humpback whales

give birth and it is one of the few places where you can swim with them. Every time I watch a YouTube where someone has swum with the whales I honestly tear up. I can't imagine the smallness and connection you feel when you are swimming with such a majestic creature."

When asked if she could move anywhere in the world, she stated, "I would probably choose Italy or New Zealand if I had to move anywhere again. I loved my time in Italy and found the culture and food intoxicating. My husband and I have talked about moving to New Zealand because of their government responses and nature reserves, but we doubt we will move to another country again."

I also asked about who she'd like to meet, if she could meet anyone at all. "If I had the chance to meet any person, I would have loved to meet Princess Diana. When I was growing up, I didn't have many friends and would often choose to go sit in the library instead of playing at recess, I vividly remember sitting and reading any book I could about Princess Diana. She seemed so elegant, kind, and thoughtful even though she was publicly humiliated and hurt by the British press and royal family. I remember being distraught when I came home from school and saw the images of her car accident. I found her strength of character so inspiring. A couple years ago I worked for the UK government and we had a celebration at the Houses of Parliament which Prince William was meant to be at, and I so badly wanted to say how much Princess Diana inspired me, but unfortunately he was called away for the Air Ambulance that night."

When asked about her proudest moment, Tianna stated, "My proudest moment would be moving to another country. The year before I moved I had a bad breakup, decided to make a spur of the moment vacation to Japan, and, while travelling, met a guy who introduced me to my husband. I am glad I had the courage to take the risk to move and be part of a relationship after the previous year was so difficult. I learnt so much from my time overseas that couldn't be taught in a classroom."

In the future, post-AU, Tianna hopes "to graduate and go to the University of Victoria for their JD/JID program." She mentioned, "My ultimate goal is to become a lawyer."

As some final thoughts, Tianna stated, "I am very excited to continue with Athabasca and hope the next semesters go better than this past one. I hope everyone is staying safe and looking after themselves during this unprecedented time." Best of luck Tianna!

Natalia Iwanek is currently completing her Bachelor of Arts in English at Athabasca University and is also a freelance editor and writer. She can be contacted at <https://www.nataliaiwanekediting.com>.

AU-thentic Events Upcoming AU Related Events

Talk to a Librarian Drop-in Session

Tues, Oct 6, 9:00 to 9:30 am MDT

Online via Microsoft Teams

Hosted by AU Library

library.athabascau.ca/orientations.html

No pre-registration necessary; access through above link

"AU Has a Library?"

An Introduction to Library Resources and Services

Wed, Oct 7, 9:00 to 10:30 am MDT

Online via Adobe Connect

Hosted by AU Library

library.athabascau.ca/orientations.html

No pre-registration necessary; access through above link

MBA for Executives Webinar

Wed, Oct 7, 10:00 to 11:00 am MDT

Online

Hosted by AU Faculty of Business

news.athabascau.ca/events/mba-for-executives-webinar-20201007

RSVP through above link

Talk to a Librarian Drop-in Session

Thur, Oct 8, 3:00 to 3:30 pm MDT

Online via Microsoft Teams

Hosted by AU Library

library.athabascau.ca/orientations.html

No pre-registration necessary; access through above link

Introduction to SPSS Workshop

Fri, Oct 9, 11:00 am MDT

Online via Microsoft Teams

Hosted by AU Faculty of Graduate Studies

fgs.athabascau.ca/news/presentations/

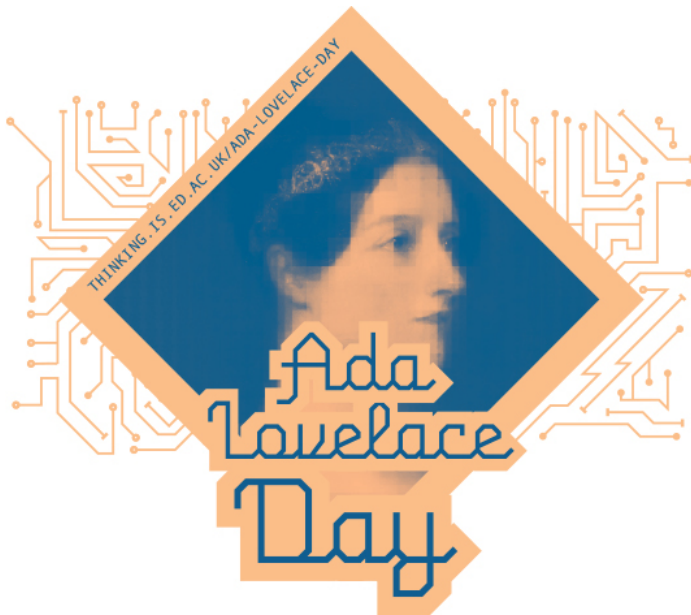
Register through above link

All events are free unless otherwise noted



Gender Inequality in STEM and Ada Lovelace Day

Adrienne Braithwaite



Gender inequality and segregation in STEM fields is a serious concern, one which is made more problematic by unyielding and stereotypical gender division in the school subjects of science and math. Some theorists use cognitive brain development to explain gender division in STEM fields; the male and female separation in certain academic subjects eventually leads to an inequality for access to certain career paths. However, this idea of a “female brain” or “male brain” is often discredited by those who support socialization theories. They argue with equal instruction, access to information, and experience, males and females are equally as capable of excelling in STEM fields.

Yet many recognize how women’s contributions to STEM fields are given less attention and

validity than their male counterparts and how we should take steps to change the conversation and foster equality in the workplace. Students can create such change by participating in events like AU Faculty of Science’s Ada Lovelace Day; this event is designed to raise awareness and fight against systemic bias against women in STEM.

Women’s contributions have historically gone unnoticed in many fields of science and technology, and October 13, 2020 is Ada Lovelace Day, a day to respect and value female’s contributions in STEM. The official website for Ada Lovelace Day says it hopes “to increase the profile of women in STEM and, in doing so, create new role models who will encourage more girls into STEM careers and support women already working in STEM.” The Finding Ada Network heralds Lady Ada King, Duchess of Lovelace as “the first computer programmer” and an “Enchantress of Numbers.” The primary goal of Ada Lovelace Day is to publicly promote the accomplishments of women in STEM on social media platforms—thereby providing role models and examples for aspiring female innovators.

AU’s Faculty of Science is recruiting students to participate on Ada Lovelace Day, gaining experience and broadening their global awareness of Canadian women in STEM. This event includes a series of editing webinars/workshops on how to write for Wikipedia, and students will practice their skills by creating biographies on Canadian women in science. On Ada Lovelace Day, the compiled student biographies will be published on Wikipedia. AU’s Anne-Marie Scott, Deputy Provost, Academic Operations believes this project is an important step to raising awareness about systemic bias on the internet. She notes there is a disproportionate number of Wikipedia articles about men, and that gender bias on the internet is problematic because it gives the false impression women are not active and contributing to STEM research. Scott says AU’s Faculty of Science will use “Ada Lovelace Day as a focal point around which to add a few more biographies of notable women to Wikipedia as a way to improve that bias, as well as increase the diversity of people who edit Wikipedia.” This event is part of a larger movement called WikiProject Women in Red, which is advocating for the addition of more content about women on Wikipedia.

Despite more recognition for women’s contributions to science, there are still legitimate concerns about gender equal representation and current examples of women’s research going unnoticed

and undervalued. Articles such as “10 Women in Science and Tech Who Should Be Household Names,” raise online awareness of the prevalence of the gender gap in STEM.

In the book "Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men" (2019) by Caroline Criado Perez, Perez addresses how many women have been innovators in STEM research but have not been given the credit for their discoveries. When looking back at history, it is not uncommon to see examples of women's discoveries being attributed to men. One example is Jocelyn Bell Burnell who discovered Neutron stars (pulsars) and helped build the Interplanetary Scintillation Array. Bell Burnell's male advisor and his partner (also male) took credit, receiving a Nobel Prize in Physics (1974). However, Bell Burnell's story continues, and her dedication to the field of Physics was officially recognized in 2018 when she received a \$3M Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics. Donna Strickland is another example of females in Physics; in 2018 she was the first female in over 55 years to win the Nobel Prize in Physics for her work on laser physics. These women earned some of the highest awards for STEM research and deserve to be honored and recognized for their achievements.

Recently, AU's Faculty of Business has also been challenging negative gender stereotypes by putting the spotlight on female entrepreneurs and experts in STEM research. One AU alumni, Dr. Stefanie Ruel, has been sharing the stories, experiences, and contributions of women in science and technology. Uncovering STEM: Women's contributions to Canada's space industry discusses how women have a significant role in Canada's space industry and how by engaging discussions about gender discrimination, we may begin to give both genders equal honor and representation in Canada.

AU's Faculty of Business also features the work of Dr. Angela Workman-Stark, who looks at how we can create more inclusive workplaces. Workman-Stark's research analyzes bias, discrimination, and gender stereotyping in the workplace. Neutrality in the workplace is questioned, saying that discrimination can be reflective of societal beliefs about gender roles but “[e]very person can challenge their preconceived notions and become more aware of internalized biases.” In her book, Criado Perez (2019) asserts gender wage gaps and the demands of childbearing on women lead to persisting gender bias in the workplace.

In the United States, for instance, a person aspiring to become a tenured professor must earn tenure within 7 years of receiving their position or they will often be fired. This becomes problematic for many women who want to have a both a family and a fulfilling career; it forces them to choose between increasing their scholarship or research and bearing children. Criado Perez (2019) believes that for global gender equality in the workplace to take effect, there needs to be large scale social and policy changes to accommodate for the valuable role women play within society; this includes recognizing and valuing both their paid and unpaid work.

During one of my recent courses, the professor asked students to share who was the most influential person in their lives and had a significant impact on their decision to pursue post-secondary education. Almost all the students answered saying their mother was their primary supporter, encouraging them to consider university studies. I personally come from a family with strong female role models where the role of women in the household was valued and am regularly encouraged in my academic studies by women who excel in their careers. However, I understand many women do not have the same supports as I did and feel their role is marginalized or diminished because of gender inequality.

Going forward I hope our society will do better, we can create more equitable work environments in Canada and better appreciate the contributions women have made to advance the fields of science and technology.

Adrienne Braithwaite is completing her After-Degree in Secondary Education at AU. She has a passion for literacy and cultural studies and hopes to pass on her enthusiasm to secondary students in the future.



Fly on the Wall

Virtual Convocation 2020

Jason Sullivan

Learning's All in Our Head, And Always Was!



To all the 2020 graduands, congrats! And for the rest of us grads, future and past, let's rest on our virtual laurels for a moment and consider the conquest that's been. Many of our peers would shudder to attempt distance education. AU is not for the faint of heart or slack of skill. We learn how to learn by evolving our scholarly selves amidst our normal lives. And, unlike a new hobby, it's not always fun and games. When the going gets rough we find out the key truth of learning online: it's all in our head! A degree from AU isn't just something given to you, it *is* you. And only the brightest and most outstanding possess the intangible temerity to succeed at distance education.

This year's virtual convocation provides a shot at delving deeper into the virtual nature of life itself at the outset of the '20s. Merriam Webster defines virtual as that which is "being such in essence or effect though not formally recognized or admitted"; the word carries an almost, but not quite, sort of sensibility. Crucially, the dictionary only invokes computers in the secondary definition of the word. A hollow thud of disappointment can easily resound through our being when we realize that, just as some ignorant folks might discount our AU degree as somehow not from a real university, we now have to contend with how we don't get a real graduation. Aww. Yet, recall the frog marches of high school graduations. On these occasions, it seems homogeneity supersedes individuality and excellence. Perhaps, then, a virtual convocation is more real than a real one, if only because we each get to attend it from our own home soil and study shed (proverbial or literal). Grad marches have a certain shepherd-like quality to them anyway, right. And AU, being above all about our individual abilities, we might as well finish off with a virtual convocation. Not because we aren't equal or superior to brick and mortar grads but because the virtual essence of learning becomes us as we ascend to academic glory.

Academic Nobility: How Excellent We Are

AU effectively deploys noble language in an attempt to evaluate virtual convocation: "AU's virtual convocation will include the historic and traditional elements of our in-person convocation with the updated and modern twist of being delivered virtually and simultaneously to this year's graduands across the globe." We've been treated like real human beings throughout our journey, more than can be said for many at the largest university here in BC that I shall leave unnamed, so why not have a graduation that combines past pomp and circumstance with the glitz of techno-mysteries from the future?

Plus, who knows, if the earth's polarity shifts we might all be back to typewriters in a jiffy! A nod to tradition is all we can expect from our current culture anyway; something borrowed and something blue only means so much in a hall stuffed with folks furtively checking their blue screens under disheveled caps and gowns. So, let's enjoy what we have at AU, even if we can't attend a traditional convocation.

Critical Thinking: The Substrate of Scholarly Success

The rubber meets the road at this year's convocation because we get to see our culture in a moment of flux. Yet the more things change, the more life remains poetic and unmappable. Surely there's more to us at a virtual level than digital mimicry of an imagined authentic experience. What about that unplaceable whimsy that triggers shivers down our spines and along our thighs such that our whole world quakes along hitherto-uncharted metaphysical fault lines. If convocation is really an event that frames a triumphant life moment, it's the ephemeral details, those uncounted internal gasps of awe at what we've done, that matter most. Those priceless mental moments, even given a virtual and temporal abstraction filtered through the technosphere, transcend their mode of conduction. At such junctures, with apologies to Marshall McLuhan, the medium is not the message.

So, whatever the future holds for graduands and the rest of us at AU, let's recall that, when we attend virtual convocation, we are participating in the times even as our tiny minds transcend the hegemonic realities of our epoch. Education provides a window into other worlds and, above all, a new view down the rabbit hole of our own humble existence. What can be more edifying than learning how to see ourselves and our lives in new and more thoughtful ways? To this end, virtual convocation ought to succeed valiantly because it allows us to see the world of 2020 not only as it is but also as we may imagine it best can be improved for the future.

Jason Hazel-rah Sullivan is a Masters of Integrated Studies student who loves engaging in discourse while working in the sunny orchards and forests of the Okanagan.

Student Sizzle — AU's Hot Social Media Topics

Following What's Hot around AU's Social Media Sites.

AthaU Facebook Group

Iliana wonders what the pass threshold is for exams; responses indicate it varies by course—always check the course syllabus and/or course manual. Dana seeks tips on prepping a room for a ProctorU exam invigilation; students chime in with their tips and past experiences.

Other posts include double majors, student email, and courses COMP 200, HRMT 300, MATH 215, and PSYC 200.

reddit

One post inquires whether students have to pay invigilation fees themselves; the answer is yes, students using third-party invigilation services providers, including ProctorU, have to pay the invigilation fee to that provider.

Twitter

@AthabascaU tweets: "This is a week of celebration. Your soundtrack has arrived. 'Songs for Walking Across the Stage' picked by fellow classmates and graduates ... so play it often and play it loud! t.co/XIfavjiH4E."

@austudentsunion tweets: "AUSU is proud to announce we have increased our Scholarships, Awards, & Bursaries program! We have more total awards available, and also increased our New Student Bursaries value. Applications for our Fall awards cycle open up Oct 1. Stay tuned! <https://ausu.org/awards>."



Should You Learn a Foreign Language

Emily Viggiani



Canada is a bilingual country, officially. The numbers of bilingual or multilingual people are increasing in Canada as the world becomes more globalized. There are 920 million native Mandarin speakers, 463 million native Spanish speakers, and 342 million native Hindi speakers in the world. These are typically cited as the most international, or useful, languages in the world. However, in Canada, it is most common to learn French as a second language.

Languages are something of a status symbol in the “polyglot” community. In it, fluency is everyone’s end goal, but polyglots enjoy the journey just as much as reaping the benefits of their hard work. Whether they are watching a film in their target language or reading a book in it, language-learning can go much deeper than ten minutes on Duolingo per day. Polyglots take language-learning far more seriously. Many learn five or more languages at once.

Which Language Should You Choose?

The answer depends on your life’s circumstances. Are you from a family (or marrying into one) that speaks another language? Do you work in an office in which there is a commonly spoken language? Is there a language you just feel drawn toward? Then there’s the fact that not all the scripts are the same: not everyone uses the Roman script—the script that English and the Latin languages are written in. Some people do not have a hard time learning character scripts, and visual learners can learn these scripts (such as Thai) more easily. Another language-learning struggle is the tones for tonal languages (such as Vietnamese).

You Must Have Patience

Many people from an immigrant family have at least one relative who has lived in Canada for years and still only knows a few phrases in English or French. Yet, if you live in a country where a foreign language is spoken, you have the advantage of immersion. People who can only read books and watch films don’t have that same immersion, though immigration to a foreign country can be difficult to manage.

You’ll Make New Friends (and get more messages from potential dates... or creeps).

Making friends with people who speak your target language is a beautiful thing. You can meet so many people practising it on the internet. Many native speakers are extremely accommodating and eager to teach. However, don’t be surprised if your new language opens the doors to something more. Whether you welcome flirtations or not, the flirtations will come.

People will ask, “are you fluent yet?” All the time.

Monolinguals will not understand how long it takes to learn another language. Potential employers and hiring managers will ask, “but are you fluent?” Not giving a care that you’ve been learning for three years. Their impatience will wear on your patience. Don’t let it.

You’ll Learn More Than Just the Language.

Aside from the language, you may find you also learn cultural etiquette, popular media, history, and more. Some mixed languages (such as Tagalog, a Filipino language) paint a vivid picture of their country’s history just based on the root word. In Tagalog, cheese is keso—another spelling

of queso, the Spanish word for cheese. This tells us that there was no need for the word cheese before the Spanish came to the Philippines. As the world gets smaller, most languages are becoming more mixed.

It's a Great Quarantine Pass-time.

Learning another language is like opening another door. I know it's cliché to say that, but many job requirements will say that you need a foreign language to qualify. If you speak another language, there is more opportunity. What else were you going to do in lockdown, anyways?

Aspiring to be a journalist, Emily Viggiani decided to start with The Voice Magazine. It makes perfect sense given Emily's passion for the arts, she will be promoting artists within Athabasca University.



Canadian Latinx Heritage Month An Outsider Perspective

Natalia Iwanek



October marks the beginning of Canadian Latin American Heritage Month. First proclaimed on June 21, 2018, the Month is “an opportunity for Canadians to recognize the valuable contribution of members of the Latin American community to this country’s social, economic, political, and cultural fabric.” Although the diaspora is not as large as in the United States, sizeable Latinx communities exist in various cities including Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, and Edmonton, steadily increasing since the first wave of immigration began in the 1970s.

Similarly, Latinx heritage is currently being celebrated in the United States as well. Begun as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, it was later extended to Latinx Heritage Month, scheduled for September 15 to October 15. This time of the year also commemorates independence from Spain for several Latin American countries,

including Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua on September 15, followed by Mexico’s Independence Day on September 16, and Chile’s on September 18.

Creating New Narratives

As non-Latinx, I was initially hesitant to write about the history of this month, as well as to centre my ideological framework in narratives that are not mine to tell, an issue that has been increasingly debated in the academic sphere in the spirit of decolonization. I believe that individuals and communities need to create their own narratives, in part, because this has affected me personally.

Over the years, I have read countless historical texts, as well as literature, about my own community from outsider perspectives. Although many come from a place of supposed expertise, these stories are told from a particular lens, or perspective, bypassing the nuances, as well as the essence—the very soul—of what a culture truly entails. No matter how ingrained in academic research or as a guest in these spaces, those from outside the community can never

truly understand the core of a culture passed down from one generation to the next through culinary traditions, through artistic creation, through ever-evolving language, and in many cases, through collective trauma.

My Connection to the Region

That said, in the end, I chose to write about this month not from any presumption of authority or expertise, but from a place of gratitude. My personal ties to the region—as a Polish-born, ethnically Ukrainian, Canadian citizen—are a bit complicated, but I am now forever connected to it after a series of unfortunate events made it my home. Finding myself back in Toronto after a decade of travel in the area, I increasingly struggle to reconcile the very ability to travel freely with the passport privilege afforded by Canadian citizenship, my adopted country's violent and extractive policies, as well as the unequal power dynamics created by the Global North presence in the Global South. For those who choose to travel to the region, an increased focus on local communities without creating displacement and increased economic disparity, as well as the possibility of sustainability and leaving minimal trace is a start, but there needs to be a focus on what is currently occurring in our home communities as well.

Government Policies

Although the region has long been affected by Canadian and US governmental foreign policies, in the current racist and xenophobic political climate, atrocities against Latinx communities have increased. In the US, separation of families, deportations, and threats to protective legislation have become expected. In Canada, Latinx communities continue to face a great deal of struggle, especially during the recent COVID-19 pandemic, including those who work in the migrant agricultural sector under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) in southern Ontario and the Okanagan Valley.

Whatever the future holds, I remain grateful for friends who became family, who have welcomed me into their communities, lovingly taught me their recipes, shared their stories, and graciously taught me their language. The following list is in no way an attempt to be comprehensive; it is simply based on my personal outsider experience and, in a way, is an homage to the cultures and regions that continually selflessly give, while continuing to face inequity and treatment as Other.

Notable Latinx Individuals and Organizations

Although Canadians may be more aware of US-based Latinx individuals, such as labour leaders, activists, and co-founders of the National Farmworkers Association (now the United Farm Workers) Dolores Huerta and César Chávez, as well as writers, such as Mexico's Carlos Fuentes and Octavio Paz, and celebrities, like Shakira and Nicky Jam, an extensive Canadian Latinx community exists as well. Some examples of notable Latinx Canadians include Chilean-born writer, educator, and activist Gabriela Etcheverry and Mexican-born cinematographer Bruce Chun. Other examples include Estefania Cortes-Vargas, the first Colombian-Canadian, and Ricardo Miranda, the first Nicaraguan-Canadian elected to Alberta's Legislature. Cortes-Vargas and Miranda were also two of the first of three openly queer politicians elected to Legislature under the NDP in 2015. Various Latinx organizations can also be found Canada-wide, including Vancouver's Canadian Latinx Theatre Artist Coalition, which advocates for and celebrates Latinx theatre, and the Greater Toronto Area's Hispanic Canadian Arts and Cultural Association, a non-profit dedicated to supporting local artists.

Latinx Eats

For those who would like to support the Canadian Latinx community, including the many small businesses struggling during this COVID-19 pandemic, Toronto's Plaza Latina is a great way to sample a variety of foods. Located in a strip mall in the northern part of the city, Plaza Latina

features a food court with stalls from a several Latin American countries, including Colombia, Argentina, El Salvador, and Peru. Some go-to's include the *pupusas de loroco con curtido* and *tamales de elote* at Pupuseria El Buen Sabor, the *empanadas* at Comedor Popular Ecuatoriano, as well as the Mexican *posole* and *tacos de birria* available as well. Other great options include Toronto's La Bella Managua and Tacos el Asador and the West Coast's La Pupuseria in Langley, British Columbia.

Latinx Reads

Some great books for a historical background of the region include *Blood of Extraction: Canadian Imperialism in Latin America* by Todd Gordon, which explains Canadian mining involvement, *An African-American & Latinx History of the U.S* by Paul Ortiz, for a US-centric view, and *Open Veins of Latin America* by Eduardo Galeano for a focus on the region itself. For more personal narratives, I recommend *Native Country of My Heart* by Chicana author Cherrie Moraga, *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color* by Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa, and *Borderlands/La Frontera* by Gloria Anzaldúa. For fictional works, including some standouts from the Latin American Boom, consider Argentinian Manuel Puig's *The Kiss of the Spider Woman*, Peruvian Mario Vargas Llosa's *The Feast of the Goat*, and Guatemalan Miguel Ángel Asturias' *The President*. For a DIY perspective, MuchachaFanzine is dedicated to "promoting social consciousness and decolonizing minds."

Latinx On-Screen

On-screen, some popular Latinx choices include telenovelas, such as *Corazón Salvaje* and *La Casa De Las Flores*, documentaries like *1994*, and films, such as *Roma*, *Tesoros*, and *Like Water for Chocolate*.

Latinx Art

Some examples of famed Latinx artists include Mexican muralist José Clemente Orozco, who led Mexico's mural revival in the 1920s, fellow muralists Diego Rivera and David Alfaro Siqueiros, as well as Frida Kahlo, whose famed portraits and self-portraits remain in popular culture to this day. Other notable examples include Cuban Ana Mendieta's multidisciplinary works, Argentina's Antonio Berni's social realism of the impoverished *villas*, and Victoria Santa Cruz, an Afro-Peruvian dramatist, choreographer, composer, and educator. For those who would like a perspective outside of the mainstream, various artistic collectives, such as NYC's Mujeristas Collective, focus on Latinx women writings and art. In Canada specifically, check out Bolivian-Canadian photographer, sculptor, and neurosurgeon Ivar Mendez.

Latinx Community Care

In this current political climate, various Canadian organizations work tirelessly to support and uplift Latinx communities, including the Migrant Rights Network and Justicia for Migrant Workers (J4MW). Internationally, some examples of organizations to support include Raices Texas: The Refugee and Immigrant Centre for Education and Legal Services, Pueblo Sin Fronteras, a trans-border organization aiding along migrant routes, and Al Otro Lado, a social justice legal services serving migrants, refugees, and deportees.

Further Learning

For students who would like to learn more consider GLST 308: Americas: An Introduction to Latin America and the Caribbean, which details independence movements, US foreign policy in the region, as well as Indigenous movements for social change. In addition, information about AU's initiatives and research into migrant workers in Alberta can be seen here.

Natalia Iwanek is currently completing her Bachelor of Arts in English at Athabasca University and is also a freelance editor and writer. She can be contacted at <https://www.nataliaiwanekediting.com>.



Homemade is Better Time versus Temperature

Chef Corey



Last week I wrote about how I used my new sous vide machine to make dinner. An acquaintance, whose son is in my Beaver Scout group, started up an interesting discussion on time versus temperature in cooking and how many websites promote potentially dangerous temperatures or cooking methods to ensure your food is cooked. I had to debate, but I found his points right on, and the only disagreement I had was in cooking different proteins. This week, I thought I would walk you through the reasons behind using both, time or temperature, as a cooking method and what makes a blogger's recipe excellent or bad.

Let me also start by saying, I'm not a science major. I took some fundamental chemistry and physics in high school many, many years ago. Here is the science I understand about cooking, and it's all chemistry and physics related: the measurement of heat is the amount of energy that is passed from one object to another, the temperature measurement is the average Kinetic Energy (KE) in the particles of an object. This

relates to food in that heat is the equalization of kinetic energy. It would seem as though the particles in the food we cook want to have a balance with the surrounding environment. We can use this information to our advantage when cooking.

We know the basics of heat transfer based on the previous paragraph, so let's talk about the cooking vessel. What makes a good frying pan, or pot, or baking sheet? The composition of each of these items will lend to the results. If you use a frying pan that spreads heat inefficiently, it will take longer to heat up, and it will likely not last very long. Most restaurants I worked in didn't have fancy cookware. They had quality, but it wasn't expensive.

What about cast iron? Cast iron is my favourite type of cookware. Cast iron is excellent when you need to cook and don't want to use a lot of heat from the cooktop. It disperses heat great, it keeps it, and it is simple to clean. The first rule of cast iron is you don't talk about cast... wait, that's something else. The real first rule is you should buy quality. It's going to cost you more to buy American, and right now, with our current economic climate with our neighbours to the south, perhaps wait. But, in the meantime, stainless steel and non-stick are two essentials you should also have. You want some weight to them; better weight value means they are likely made with decent material.

And the cook surface matters; non-stick is great for eggs, fish, vegetables, or other foods you aren't trying to brown. Stainless steel is for searing meat, like bacon, steak, roast, or chicken. The metal grabs the protein, and you get the Maillard reaction, that is, the browning of protein to give it its unique flavour.

And while we're talking about meats, it's worth noting that various meats should be cooked to different finishing temperatures. Some health authorities differ in some areas, but I will tell you

that most (not all) foodborne illnesses are effectively neutralized when food is cooked above 140F. This is the minimum temperature that food should be cooked to slow or neutralize bacteria; that doesn't mean it's the right temperature for the food you're eating.

Pork and chicken, for instance, are two animals that we've always been told to cook them to 160F or 180F.

There was a time when the Federal Government in the USA and Canada told people to cook their pork to 160F to kill a parasitic worm. The truth is that they chose this temperature somewhat arbitrarily. Pork can be cooked to 145F, with at least a 3-minute rest, but I would give it at least 10 minutes. The parasite itself seems to be more of a concern in Slavic countries from some of the brief googling I did on google scholar. On one website, I also read that the parasite is killed at 137F but couldn't find other research to corroborate it. But the USDA has stated that pork can be cooked to medium-rare, which they see as 145F.

Chicken is cooked to 160F because of salmonella. Salmonella is a relatively tough foodborne illness, and it takes a higher temperature to kill it, or consistently high temperature for a longer time. A consistent high temperature is difficult to achieve unless you have a device that you can set to a temperature such as 145F and let the chicken sit for about 9 minutes at that internal temperature. And then, we need to know the optimal time that we need to cook something at that lower temperature. This is an example of where you can use time.

All of which brings us to why time and temperature can be used. Cooking time will always vary depending on the thickness and type of meat you are cooking. Thicker meat, like an outside round roast, is going to take longer to reach an ideal temperature. If you like it rare, you'll shoot for around 125 – 130F in the center, more done than that, you'll shoot for about 140F or higher. This will take several hours at 350F in your oven, and increasing the temperature doesn't decrease the cooking time by the amount you think it does. Most temperatures convert to Kelvin easily, and when you convert say 200F and 400F into Kelvin, you realize it's not that much difference. It's about 1.3 times the difference. Why Kelvin, though?

Kelvin is the only temperature that is based on absolute zero. Most temperatures are a conversion of Kelvin to make it easier for us to use. If I told you to cook something at 449.717K, you'd look at me like I'm crazy, but I say to cook at 350F, you understand. Another part of cooking you need to know about temperature is the amount of energy required to raise water 1-degree temperature. We know this is joules per kilogram per degree Celsius. The meat we cook typically contains an amount of water. We are trying to increase the water temperature to a point where it starts to evaporate (cooks the meat). So thicker meats take longer to cook because of a lot of science.

Many people, much smarter than me, have given us a guideline for how long it takes a particular piece of meat to cook to a specific temperature based on their calculations of the above scientific explanations. So, we can say, for the most part, certain meats will take time "x" to cook to temperature "y." These are statistical averages but are relatively consistent with the majority of ovens and foods. Thus, a food blogger that writes about how long it "should" take uses the average cook time of their meal on their equipment. It is entirely possible and probable that you might be the person that seems not to have that. So, we back up our temperature "guesstimate" by saying cook your protein "A" to 145F, then let it rest and allow carryover cooking to work.

A quick special note about sous vide: one of the reasons sous vide is becoming popular has to do with the ability to cook your food, but not overcook it. According to a sous vide review, meat that is 70mm in thickness can be pasteurized by holding at 140F for 4:42. So, this is what makes Sous

Vide so unique. You can cook your meat all day, and it will stay at the temperature you've set the device, and it will pasteurize your food, making it safe to eat at lower temperatures.

Next week I'm going to share with you my Turkey brining tips for Thanksgiving. If you're considering what temperature to cook your turkey too, 165F should be your final temp and Ill share with you how long to rest it to get that temp.

Chef Corey is a student in business management who first graduated from NAIT's Culinary Arts Program in 2007



The Creative Spark

Master Story Hooks for Fiction and Nonfiction

Marie Well



If we want to write books fit for the cinema, then we'd do well to find a hook. Rob Eagar, author of *Mastering Book Hooks for Authors: How to Capture Reader ATTENTION and Book Sales in 30 Words or Less*, says, "A hook is a statement or question designed to generate immediate curiosity and make the reader desire to know more" (21%).

But how does a book hook tie into the cinema?

Eagar says, "In Hollywood, a screenwriter's career is based on how well he or she can pitch a movie script starting with a powerful hook. In addition, whenever you see a movie poster or watch a television commercial, there's usually one sentence displayed that is designed to grab your attention" (33%).

Hooks matter, too, in getting publishers thrilled about our books. That's because, with a keen hook, our books can sell like crazy. Some examples of possible book hooks are things like:

What if a lawyer mother has to defend her son against murder?

What if a man discovers his wife is having an affair with his mother?

What if sugar gets banned, deemed an illegal substance?

What if schools get replaced with military camps?

What if a deadly virus shuts down the world's economy? (Hey, we know the answer to that!)

Now, let's look into two central types of hooks: nonfiction versus fiction hooks.

First, Nonfiction Hooks.

You can't top a nonfiction hook!

Eagar said earlier to use hooks for making films. But what if you're writing nonfiction? Eagar drums up a simple solution: "if you write nonfiction history, education, religion, or self-help, use the screenwriting technique to imagine your book turned into a movie documentary" (36%).

He uses the “What if I told you___?” method for crafting a nonfiction hook suitable for a movie documentary.

Here, the narrator asks, “‘What if I told you ____?’ Then, the narrator fills in the blank and completes the question with a provocative statement” (36%).

The “What if I told you___?” method works wonders. A second method, according to Eagar, is to “review your manuscript and make a list of the most controversial or contrarian teaching points. Identify specific parts of your manuscript where you write something that would make people think, ‘Wow, I’ve never heard that before,’ ‘That’s really controversial,’ or ‘I’ve never heard it put that way before.’” (41%).

For instance, a recipe book might feature a black licorice spaghetti and meatball dessert. Or a nonfiction book on unconditional love might have a blurb on women who unwittingly marry mafia kings. These shocking tidbits could weave into your hook.

But there's another side to hooks—namely, fiction hooks.

Fiction Hooks.

Long live fiction hooks!

Eagar outlines a whole new method for making fiction Hooks: “Employ a technique used by many screenwriters to sell their movie ideas. Like most movies, a novel consists of three essential elements: a protagonist that people like, a quest that the protagonist must complete, and dire conflict or an evil villain who is encountered along the way” (42%).

He calls this the 3-Step Screenwriter's Pitch Process. Let’s look at the three steps:

“[Step] 1. What makes the main character unique? [Step] 2. What type of quest or journey does the main character undertake? [Step] 3. What kind of conflict or villain does the main character encounter during the quest? Answer each question using a short phrase that provides key details. Then, assemble all three phrases together into a single sentence or question. Using this process can help create a winning hook” (45%).

Here are some examples of fiction Hooks using the 3-Step Screenwriter's Pitch Process:

An intellectually disabled woman. A quest to find equality. Can she overcome all odds and achieve tenure as a professor of law?

An 80-year-old woman. Discovers her beloved husband of 60 years is a serial killer. Can she live her final days in peace?

A martial artist spiritual female. She's barely surviving a city in a state of war. Will her spirituality pacify her or will her fighter spirit draw blood?

An advanced Tibetan Monk. Forced into a labour camp by the communist regime. Can he live out his days in spiritual bliss, or will fear and bitterness destroy his soul?

Well, we now have the skills to grip readers the minute they read our hooks. Starting with a controversial hook makes our books not just fun to write, but exciting to read.

Reference

Eagar, Rob. (2018). *Mastering Book Hooks for Authors How to Capture Reader ATTENTION and Book Sales in 30 Words or Less*. [Kindle Unlimited]. Retrieved from amazon.ca.



The Not-So Starving Student

My Four Favourite Costco Ready-to-Cook Items

Xin Xu

Ever since moving to a new Airbnb for an internship opportunity, I've been dreading the process of cooking and packing. During lockdown I was able to cook at my own pace, however, since having to work from the office, I've found that a new challenge of managing my meals has taken a toll on my time management capacity. Arriving home late some days, worn out and with low energy, did not help my already lacking motivation for cooking. However, I also did not want to eat out of a KFC bucket. I wanted a balance of nutrition and flavor without having to get my hands dirty. One option I have relied on heavily since the start of this internship is my Costco membership. For AU students who are looking for this blend of health, flavor, cost-savings and time-savings, the ready-to-cook section of Costco is one of my go-to selections. Here are my top picks of the offerings:

Lasagna

Costco has some of the best lasagna selections, from full-casserole sized options to personal-sized lasagnas that are perfect for quick meal preparation. Since the focus of this column is on ready-to-eats, there's a freshly prepared family-sized lasagna that is packed with cheese, tomato sauce, and beef crumbs. Unlike some of the salad options, this dish still requires 20 minutes of baking in the oven. However, unlike the frozen options, the lasagna does not need to be transferred into another baking tray, making the process as mess-free and hassle-free as possible.

Price: \$13.67

Flavor rating: 8/10

Cost rating: 9/10



Shawarma Platter

This new platter hit the shelves at my local Costco not too long ago as I have never seen it previously in Canada. My first purchase of this product this week pleasantly surprised me. While the Shawarma platter is slightly pricier than some of the other carbohydrate-packed options, this item is loaded with donair meat, grape tomatoes, and onions. The platter comes with its own tzatziki sauce that is rich, thick, and flavorful. The entire platter makes eight shawarmas and is an excellent choice for those craving a different flavor profile.

Price: \$17.99

Flavor rating: 9/10

Cost rating: 5/10



Mediterranean Pasta

Having been using this in my meal preparations every day last week, I can confidently say that this is a great cold dish that can be served alone or alongside other salads. The sheer quantity of this product lasts me an entire week. For the price of this platter, it is also an incredible deal. For those who are looking to take a break from the monotony of meal-prepping during quarantine, this can help change up the palette.

Price: \$7.99

Flavor rating: 7/10

Cost rating: 8/10



Stuffed bell peppers

This dish has caught my attention since the first day I walked into Costco. The platter features six enormous bell peppers packed with rice, beef, and shredded cheese. The flavors remind me of Tex-Mex spices with a twist. I loved the texture of the rice that is not overly soggy or overly tough. The value of the dish from the proteins mixed with the rice is worth every penny. Moreover, Kirkland brand has a reputation of using fresh ingredients that never disappoints.

Price: \$18.13

Flavor rating: 7/10

Cost rating: 6/10

Xin Xu is a post-graduate health-science AU student, aspiring clinician, globe-trotter, parrot breeder and tea-connoisseur.

The Study Dude

Four Ways to Improve Your Analysis Papers



Marie Well

Your analysis papers could nail perfect grades. Analysis papers zero in on movies, books, or pieces of writing. Analysis papers will tear it apart, dispassionately but calculatingly. And then they draw an assertion, ideally a controversial one.

But first, wisely choose a strategy for your analysis. So, what are these analysis strategies? Let's look at four of them: (1) theory, (2) arguments, (3) rhetorical, and (4) deconstruction.

First, Theory.

Theory loves making your papers shine.

Use "established theory as a basis for analysis. For supplementing your analysis with a theoretical framework,

choose a particular philosophical, religious, or psychological theory and establish connections between this theory and analyzed source” (EssayShark, 2017, 13%).

Before choosing a theory, you might want to see what theories are popular in your department's graduate program. Better yet, do what a fellow grad student of mine did: find out the popular theories and then read up on the ones you find most appealing. Yes, this grad student read theoretical book after theoretical book. My guess is he is a professor now, reading even more theory books in some prestigious university. And I know your potential is out of this world, just like his was.

Second, Arguments.

Dissect arguments when nothing else will do.

“Analyzing the arguments of the source. If your primary task is to go through the arguments developed by the author and critically evaluate them, you should highlight the main differences between these arguments, identify their strong and weak points, and provide a balanced, unbiased overview of these arguments without supporting any of them” (EssayShark, 2017, 13%).

Identifying strengths and weaknesses of arguments can be tricky. You might get lucky and find a wealth of articles that analyze the source's arguments. You can take the point of views that seem strongest to you, or that have a lot of support, and use them to structure your own arguments. But remember, your analysis must not reveal a bias. Think like Spock balancing a scale of arguments.

If you catch yourself forming a bias, then research opposing views. Not only will this keep you in neutral territory, but it will also strengthen your ability to consider views that go against your own.

Analyzing arguments is kind of tricky in academia. You don't want to say much of anything unless you have a citation to back up your view. That is, unless it's an opinion piece. But, once you master the analysis of arguments, you'll surely hold the power to out-debate anyone.

Third, Rhetorical

“Rhetorical analysis. In this type of analysis, your prior task is to concentrate on the text, the use of rhetorical strategies and the author's professionalism. To do this, you should read the text several times consciously, identify the rhetorical devices, and find out whether their usage is persuasive enough. Do not forget about the TRACE rule ‘Text, Reader, Author, Context, and Exigence’ and establish connections between all of these elements” (EssayShark, 2017, 13%).

Rhetorical devices include hyperbole, metaphor, simile, and many more. If you do a search for rhetorical devices, you'll find lists of them.

The great news is that by mastering rhetorical devices, your writing grows even more polished. Great writing marks the gold standard for grad students. If you write well and study hard, you should have uncapped potential in many disciplines. You may even claim a PhD.

Fourth, Deconstruction.

Deconstruction is a smart choice.

“Deconstruction approach. This type of analysis is oriented on destroying the traditional points of view through critical evaluation of the source. Indeed, deconstruction represents the

rebuilding of the source, dividing it into a variety of fragments and analyzing each of these elements. This approach helps to find the small details which make up the whole. The representative example of deconstructive analysis is looking for the conflicts, contradictions, multiple meanings, and errors in the books with brilliant reputations. For instance, you may analyze the weak points of Gatsby as a character in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* to destroy the popular thoughts and suggest a non-standard analysis of the plot" (EssayShark, 2017, 13%).

I did a deconstruction of the book *Heart of Darkness*. My professor said the book wasn't racist, nor were the characters. Yet the book referenced a troubling reference to black people: the n-word. I dissected every reference to black people to discover the n-word was used to scold or put down the person. When the black person was offering a service or being pleasing, more positive references occurred. That to me indicated the book had racist pretences. My professor argued that the book wasn't racist—just the characters. But at least the deconstruction changed his view.

So, those are four tactics for analyzing a movie, book, or piece of writing. You've got the stuff to shine already, being that you're an AU student. These four strategies will simply add luster to your analysis papers—and secure you even higher grades! Who said perfect wasn't a goal?

Reference

EssayShark. (2017). *Essay Becomes Easy Part I Analysis * Persuasive * Classification * Evaluation Reflective * Narrative * Compare and Contrast Essays*. [Kindle Unlimited]. Retrieved from amazon.ca.

Scholarship of the Week

Digging up scholarship treasure for AU students.

Scholarship name: Electric IT Innovation Scholarship

Sponsored by: Electric

Deadline: November 1, 2020, 11:59 pm EST

Potential payout: \$1000

Eligibility restriction: Applicants must be university or high-school students.

What's required: An online application, including a maximum 600-word essay on the topic of internet technology.

Tips: Be sure to read the [Terms and Conditions](#).

Where to get info: www.electric.ai/mobile-device-innovation





Dear
Barb

Barbara Godin

Camping Conundrum

Hi, my husband and I and a couple of friends were camping last week, and we came upon a situation where we weren't sure what was the right thing to do. It was a nice sunny day and we were just sitting around reading and having a few drinks. Across from us were a couple of campsites with what looked like a group of senior citizens. They were drinking pretty consistently, and, as the day went on, it was obvious they were getting looped. A family with three young girls around ages 7 to 10 set up on a nearby campsite. The girls were riding a bike up and down the road, which is fine; there is limited vehicular traffic in the campground. At one point we noticed one of the older men went over to them.

There was only one bike for the three girls and they were taking turns riding the bike or running beside or behind. I couldn't hear what the man was saying to the girls, but I could see him directing the girls on what to do. He seemed to tell the one girl to sit on the seat, while the other one could ride the bike standing. Then he motioned for the little one to get on the handle bars. He was holding the bike up while they started driving the bike. Well, of course the bike fell over. Fortunately, none of the girls were hurt. He did this a few more times, and eventually the girls stopped riding by his site. I struggled with whether I should go to the girl's parents or whomever they were with and tell them about what was going on. I wasn't sure if it was my place, but I was concerned that the girls would get injured. Not sure what was the right thing to do in this situation. What do you think?

Thanks, Monica.

Hey Monica:

Thanks for your letter. Some people just do not think. Perhaps it was the age or the alcohol that contributed to this man's poor decision-making ability. I'm wondering about the other people who were with him, why didn't they try to stop him. Since this fellow was intoxicated, it probably wouldn't have been a healthy choice to confront him. Therefore, my suggestion would have been to go to the parents and let them know what is going on. If they were alright with it, there wouldn't have been much you could do except possibly go to the Park Ranger and report the situation. Fortunately, nothing happened, and the girls were smart enough to avoid these campers, or perhaps the parents saw what was going on and advised the girls not to go around that campsite.

Good question Monica.

Email your questions to voice@voicemagazine.org. Some submissions may be edited for length or to protect confidentiality; your real name and location will never be printed. This column is for entertainment only. The author is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.



Poet Maeve
The Meaning of Romance

Wanda Waterman



The information on this page is provided by the AU Students' Union. The Voice does not create this content. Contact AUSU at services@ausu.org with any questions about this article.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Oct 1:** [AUSU Awards & Bursaries open for applications](#)
- **Oct 2:** [Athabasca University Convocation](#)
- **Oct 10:** [Deadline to register in a course starting Oct 1](#)
- **Oct 15:** [Nov degree requirements deadline](#)
- **Oct 21:** [AUSU Public Council Meeting \(Zoom\)](#)
- **Sep 30:** [Deadline to apply for course extension for Oct](#)

AUSU Awards & Bursaries - Apply Now!

Applications for AUSU's fall awards cycle are now open!

We are proud to announce that AUSU has now devoted additional funds to our Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries program, including additional Academic Achievement and Student Volunteer Awards, as well as increasing our New Student Bursaries to \$500 each. There will be some more funds released soon too, so stay tuned!

Applications are online, and are open to all AU undergraduate students. Apply now!

Academic Achievement Awards (3 available): For students who have achieved academic excellence.

AUSU Bursaries (5 available): For students in financial need and/or with exceptional circumstances.

Balanced Student Awards (4 available): For students who balance multiple commitments.

New Student Bursaries (4 available): For students in financial need with between *3 to 11 AU credits.

Returning Student Awards (4 available): For students who have returned to studies after a long break.

Student Volunteer Awards (3 available): For students who contribute to their community.

#Igo2AU Awards (2 available): Open to all undergraduate students to celebrate diversity at AU.

Find out more or apply online [here](#).

Congratulations 2020 Graduates!

The AU Students' Union council and staff would like to congratulate the AU graduates of 2020! It takes a great deal of resilience, perseverance, and determination to graduate from a post-secondary program, and even more so with the high standards of Athabasca University. This has been a challenging year, which makes the accomplishments of graduates even more extraordinary. **Thank for you showing fellow AU students that their dreams are possible!**

Win a \$100 Celebratory Dinner on Us!

Did you get your grad gift from AUSU and AUGSA in your 2020 AU Convocation Box?

(Surprise! It's a limited-edition print from award-winning photographer Paul Zizka!!)



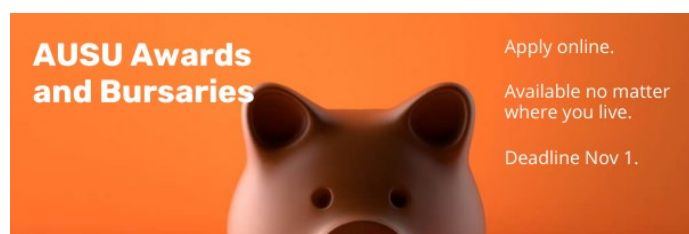
Share your print number for a chance to win a \$100 celebratory dinner on us, or a signed copy of the artist Paul Zizka's book "Canadian Rockies: Rediscovered"!

How to Enter to Win:

1. Take a picture showing the limited-edition print number on the back of your photo print (??? / 2500)
2. Post it to social media and tag @AUStudentsUnion, @AthabascaUGSA, and @PaulZizkaPhoto

Find out more on our website [here](#).

Contest closes October 5, 2020 (midnight).



CLASSIFIEDS

Classifieds are free for AU students!
Contact voice@voicemagazine.org for more information.

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